

PO Box 200701 1420 East Sixth Avenue Helena, MT 59620-0701 August 2009

To those interested in Flathead Lake islands:

The attached decision notice approves the Flathead Lake Islands Final Management Plan for implementation. Four Flathead Lake islands owned by Fish, Wildlife & Parks are considered under this plan: Wild Horse Island State Park, Cedar, Bird and O'Neil (Douglas) Islands. The plan guides natural resource conservation, recreation, interpretation and educational efforts, park operations, and visitor services for the next ten years.

Seven people commented on the draft plan during a thirty-day comment period ending June 5. All comments were considered and the plan modified accordingly. The plan is an update to the 1994 Wild Horse Island Management Plan and will be consulted regularly to guide management actions at the four islands. The Management Action Timeline identifies priority projects, but this list is sure to change over time. It does help focus management efforts on the most important issues as viewed today. Prior to implementing, certain projects will be subject to an environmental assessment and additional public review as required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act.

Copies of the Flathead Lake Islands Final Management Plan can be obtained on the FWP web page: <u>fwp.mt.gov</u> under State Parks. If you prefer, you can pick up a copy of the management plan from the FWP Kalispell Headquarters, 490 N. Meridian Road, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or call (406) 752-5501 to request a copy.

Sincerely.

Chas Van Genderen

State Parks Administrator

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